EDUCATION

This department publishes articles, notices, and news on programs and courses in the history of mathematics, the uses of history in mathematics education, historical activities at meetings of mathematics, and other matters relating to the place of our discipline in academic affairs.

DOCTORAL WORK IN THE HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF INDIANA

In the Department of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Indiana, the Ph.D. degree may be earned with a thesis in certain fields in the history of mathematics. Staff members with interest in this area are Professors Edward Grant (Chairman of the department; Greek and medieval mathematics), Ronald Giere (probability and induction), Richard S. Westfall (calculus), Alberto Coffa (formalism and geometry), and Noretta Koertge (statistics as it bears on the history of scientific methodology). There is no specific program in the history of mathematics and candidates must make individual arrangements.

Theses in the history of mathematics at the University of Indiana include:

Timothy LeNoir, "The social and intellectual roots of discovery in seventeenth century mathematics." (completed 1974)

Warren Van Egmond, "Abacus and abacist: The commercial revolution and the origins of Western arithmetic." (in progress)

Randall Longcore, "Benjamin Robins as mathematician." (in progress)

GRADUATE WORK AT JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

The Department of the History of Science at Johns Hopkins offers a strong program, but does not include at present specialization in the history of mathematics. However, C. Truesdell, Professor of Rational Mechanics, writes as follows:

"I am willing to guide graduate students in research in the history of mechanics and aspects of mathematics closely related to it. Requirements for the doctorate in the Department of Mechanics and Materials Science are printed in the graduate catalogue. Beyond them, the Natural Philosophy Group gives a diagnostic oral examination to entering students and an annual oral examination thereafter; it requires passing examinations in two foreign languages. My own personal requirement would be a fluent reading knowledge of Latin, French, and German; competence in mathematics equivalent to a good bachelor's degree in it as taught by mathematicians; some study of rational mechanics

as it is understood today; and a good general view of the political, social, literary, and artistic history of the period in which the candidate would concentrate."

Professor Truesdell refers to his article "The scholar's workshop and tools" in *Centaurus* 17, 1-10, for an exposition of his approach to the history of science.

HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS IN THE PH.D. PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

As part of its Mathematical Sciences Ph.D. option, intended to train college mathematics teachers, the University of Montana includes a course in history of contemporary mathematics.

[From "A college teaching course for future Ph.D.'s in mathematics," by Richard Billstein in the *American Mathematical Monthly* 81 (December 1974), 1105- 1110.]

A HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS PH.D. AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Although there is no established program in the history of mathematics at the University of Texas at Austin, Albert C. Lewis has just completed his work for a Ph.D. there with a dissertation entitled "An historical analysis of Grassmann's *Ausdehnungslehre* of 1844," under the supervision of an ad hoc interdisciplinary committee chaired by Prof. Robert Palter of History and Philosophy, and including John Durbin of Mathematics, Alexander Vucinich of History and Sociology, and Ignacio Angelelli of Philosophy. He followed an individual program proposed by himself and located officially in the History Department. His background was a major in mathematics with a minor in Greek, and his program included a semester at Cambridge University and courses at Texas in Greek, mathematics, history, and philosophy, as well substantial independent reading.

This seemingly unique program may be of interest to graduate students at institutions not having standard arrangements for specialization in the history of mathematics.

AN UNDERGRADUATE COURSE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Mathematics 214, Mathematics and Human Thought, a historically oriented course on the role of mathematics within various philosophical perspectives and in relation to the development of the sciences, is offered by Prof. Felix E. Browder of the Mathematics Department.